

**SENATE, No. 794**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN**

**District 20 (Union)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes process for county colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs in certain critical-need applied science fields.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1   **AN ACT** concerning baccalaureate degree programs at county  
2       colleges and supplementing chapter 64A of Title 18A of the New  
3       Jersey Statutes.

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5       **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
6       *of New Jersey:*

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8       1.   a.   The board of trustees of a county college established  
9       pursuant to chapter 64A of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes,  
10       may submit a proposal to the New Jersey Presidents' Council for  
11       the establishment of a baccalaureate degree program in an applied  
12       sciences field in which a critical shortage of qualified labor exists,  
13       or is projected to exist, in the region. The proposal shall include:

14       (1) a brief description of the program, the unmet need for  
15       graduates of the program in the geographic region to be served by  
16       the program, and an estimated timeframe for implementation of the  
17       program;

18       (2) identification of the facilities, equipment, and library and  
19       academic resources that will be used to deliver the program;

20       (3) a cost analysis of establishing the program;

21       (4) the program's admission requirements, academic content,  
22       curriculum, faculty credentials, and accreditation plan; and

23       (5) the program's enrollment projections and funding  
24       requirements.

25       b.   The New Jersey Presidents' Council shall review the  
26       proposal, notify the board of trustees of any deficiencies in writing  
27       within 30 days following receipt of the proposal, and provide the  
28       board of trustees with an opportunity to correct the deficiencies.

29       c.   Within 45 days of receipt of a completed proposal, the New  
30       Jersey Presidents' Council shall forward the proposal, with its  
31       recommendation for approval or disapproval of the proposal, to the  
32       Secretary of Higher Education. The secretary shall consider the  
33       council's recommendation and shall provide the county college with  
34       a written determination on the approval or disapproval of the  
35       proposal within 60 days of its receipt from the council.

36       d.   The establishment of a baccalaureate degree program by a  
37       county college pursuant to the provisions of this act shall be  
38       dependent upon the county college receiving accreditation for the  
39       program by the appropriate accrediting body.

40       e.   A county college shall offer no more than three  
41       baccalaureate degree programs in applied sciences pursuant to the  
42       provisions of this section.

43       f.   Seven years following the establishment of a baccalaureate  
44       degree program, the board of trustees of a county college shall  
45       submit a report to the secretary, the Governor, and to the  
46       Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1).  
47       The report shall contain information on the implementation of the  
48       baccalaureate degree program, the number of students who have

1 enrolled in the program, and the number of students who have  
2 completed the program. The secretary shall make a  
3 recommendation to the Governor and to the Legislature on the  
4 advisability of continuing the program.

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6 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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11 This bill establishes a process for a county college to offer a  
12 baccalaureate degree in the area of applied sciences. Under the bill,  
13 the board of trustees of a county college may submit a proposal to  
14 the New Jersey Presidents' Council for the establishment of a  
15 baccalaureate degree program in an applied sciences field in which  
16 a critical shortage of qualified labor exists, or is projected to exist,  
17 in the region.

18 Under the bill, the New Jersey Presidents' Council is directed to  
19 review the proposal and notify the board of trustees of any  
20 deficiencies in writing, and the council must provide the board of  
21 trustees with an opportunity to correct the deficiencies. The New  
22 Jersey Presidents' Council must forward the proposal, with its  
23 recommendation for approval or disapproval of the proposal, to the  
24 Secretary of Higher Education. The secretary is directed to provide  
25 the county college with a written determination on the approval or  
26 disapproval of the proposal. The bill provides that the  
27 establishment of a baccalaureate degree program by a county  
28 college will be dependent upon the county college receiving  
29 accreditation for the program by the appropriate accrediting body.  
30 A county college may offer no more than three baccalaureate degree  
31 programs through the bill's provisions.

32 Seven years following the establishment of a baccalaureate  
33 degree program, the board of trustees of the county college must  
34 submit a report to the secretary, the Governor, and to the  
35 Legislature on the implementation and impact of its baccalaureate  
36 program. The secretary is directed to then make a recommendation  
37 to the Governor and to the Legislature on the advisability of  
38 continuing the program.